

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03552 111248Z

53

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 /072 W

----- 084383

R 111210Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5153

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3552

FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRETORIA, INFO JOHANNESBURG AND DURBAN
FROM CAPE TOWN DATED 10 AUG 76 IS REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION.

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0911

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJ: CLASSES DISRUPTED AT UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE

REF: CAPE TOWN 896 (NOTAL)

1. CLASSES AT THE "COLORED" UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE (UWC)
WERE DISRUPTED AT MID-MORNING AUGUST 9 BY A GROUP OF 400-450
CHANTING AND SINGING STUDENTS WHO MARCHED INTO LECTURE HALLS
TO ENFORCE A CONTINUED BOYCOTT OF CLASSES. THE STUDENTS THUS
DEFIED A WRNING ISSUED LAST WEEK BY UWC RECTOR RICHARD VAN DER
ROSS THAT CLASSES WOULD RESUME THIS WEEK AND THAT DISCIPLINARY
ACTION (UNSPECIFIED) WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE FAILING TO
ATTEND.

2. LATER IN THE DAY THE STUDENTS HANDED OVER TO THE RECTOR A
MEMORANDUM LISTING THEIR GRIEVANCES AND DEMANDS FOR ACTION.

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 03552 111248Z

RECTOR QUOTED IN PRESS AS HAVING WELCOMED MEMORANDUM AS "POSITIVE

POINT OF DEPARTURE" FOR FURTHER DIALOGUE. A LEADING UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL TOLD CONGEN OFF THAT MOST OF DEMANDS CONCERN THE STUDENTS OPPOSITION TO "THE SYSTEM" AND ARE NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO UNIVERSITY CORRECTION. A FEW OF THE DEMANDS CONCERNED UNIVERSITY MATTERS AND INCLUDED DEMANDS FOR THE DISMISSAL OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL STAFF MEMBERS. SAME OFFICIAL SAID IN LATE AFTERNOON FULL COMPLEMENT OF RIOT POLICE APPEARED ON CAMPUS HAVING BEEN CALLED BY SOMEONE OTHER THAN UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION. THIS REPORTEDLY PROVOKED FURTHER WAVE OF MARCHING AND CHANTING BY STUDENTS AND BY LATE AFTERNOON ALL CLASSES AFFECTIVELY ENDED. OFFICIAL DESCRIBED CURRENT SITUATION AS "STALEMATE" BUT INDICATED ADMINISTRATION HOPES THAT BY AVOIDING OPEN CONFRONTATION WITH STUDENTS TEMPERS WILL SUBSIDE AND BY END OF WEEK CLASSES WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL.

COMMENT: RECTOR IS A DIFFICULT POSITION, HAVING PUBLICLY THREATENED TO DISCIPLINE THOSE ATTEMPTING TO CONTINUE BOYCOTT BUT AT SAME TIME TRYING HARD TO AVOID ACTIONS THAT WILL FURTHER INFLAME SITUATION. REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER FACE SAVING COMPROMISE CAN BE WORKED OUT.
WILLIAMS

UNQUOTE:
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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